

Testimony of Joshua Harrold, Regional Director 1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund
Md/DC on
SB 518 Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Delores G. Kelley, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Health care workers are in remarkably high demand throughout the country with considerable shortages in Maryland. To overcome some of these shortages, specifically in occupations that require additional “mid-level” skills, many entry-level workers complete specific occupational skills training. The 1199SEIU Healthcare Workers East Training and Employment Funds is a collectively bargained joint labor-management fund that provides educational and job training programs to eligible members. We play a unique role in the career advancement opportunities that the members can access. Through tuition assistance and occupational certificate training connections, we assist the members in gaining the skills they need to advance in their career in turn giving them the ability to play a vital role in the Care Model providing exceptional services to their patients.

Too often the training we offer is not able to meet 100% of the needs of the members and is not accessible to non-members sharing the work environment. This underscores the need for the Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program. A partnership between the healthcare employers and this fund will enable the investment in the staff to get them the increased skills they need to provide this exceptional service. Connecting this training with HBCUs and community colleges is a great innovation. Much of the training provided by the 1199SEIU Training and Employment Fund is facilitated in cooperation with local Community Colleges. Community Colleges have become valuable partners due to their knowledge of current occupational skills needs and flexibility to build programs to meet those needs.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB 518** and ask for a **FAVORABLE** report.

Best Regards,

Joshua Harrold, Regional Director
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